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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF ARBORETA AND BOTANIC GARDENS

BIENNIAL REPORT

1983 ~ 1985

SHOUT
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Department of
Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

Francis Ching
Director

301 NORTH BALDWIN AVENUE, ARCADIA, CA 91006-2697 PHONE: (818) 446-8251

May 30, 1986

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

During this biennium the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens with the aid of supporting organizations was able to provide all the major services at the four gardens which are open to the public.

Financial and volunteer support from the five foundations continued to increase and many of the services provided to the public were funded and staffed totally by the foundations.

The continuation of the gardens' public services programs, improvements, and maintenance, despite reduced staff, was accomplished with everyone's help, from staff to volunteers and foundation members.

Very truly yours,

Francis Ching
Director

LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM

The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum covers 127 acres in the City of Arcadia. Plants from around the world are displayed in sections based on their geographic origins. Educational landscape displays include the Aquatic Garden, Meadowbrook, Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens, Tropical Greenhouse, Herb Garden/Groundcover Display, and Prehistoric and Jungle Garden.

Garden improvement and capital construction was concentrated on the northern half of the gardens. The area between Ayres Hall of Environmental Education and the Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens was vastly improved. The ramada was extended the entire length of the hall on the south side. This area can now be isolated during public hours for small social functions and used for public shows that are too large for the Hall.

Pedestrian traffic was improved from the Hall with the completion of the walk to the tram road. This path also provides easy access for show preparation on both sides of the lawn area.

Celebrating Sunset Magazine's sponsorship, the Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens were renovated with funding provided by Sunset Magazine. Worn out garden fixtures were replaced or refurbished, new plants were added and new plant labels were installed in the garden.

A major addition to the Australian Section was a new Visitor Interpretative Center. The center contains panels introducing plants native to Australia that are used extensively in Southern California.

Tallac Knoll on the southern portion of the Arboretum was also improved with the help of the California Conservation Corps. The walkways around the Aquatic Garden were paved and new handrails were installed for the convenience of the public.

Other improvements at the Arboretum included new mounds for planting in the Palm Section and the use of the vacant land in the Depot parking lot for a field testing nursery.

With the aid of the California Arboretum Foundation, the student intern program was continued throughout the year.

A private landscape maintenance contractor was employed to maintain the parkway on both sides of Baldwin Avenue and the parking lot. This contractor was additionally responsible for mowing, lawn renovation and weed control inside the Arboretum.

FLOWER SHOWS & SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE ARBORETUM

Cactus and Succulent Show
Concert - James Darren
4-H Judging Event
Queen Anne Frolic
Akebono Bonsai Show
Adoption Fantasy Fiesta
Fall Bonsai Show
Los Angeles Garden Show
Arcadia Sister City Commission Dinner
Christmas Open House
Paramount Studios Party
Inside Hollywood Tours Party
California Turtle and Tortoise Show
San Gabriel American Begonia Show
Alpha Romeo Owners Club Show
Miniature Rose Show
Palm Show
Gladiolus Show
Santa Anita Bonsai Show
Arcadia Christian Celebrity Series
Maranatha High School-Sadie Hawkins Party
Satsuki and Azalea Show
Epiphyllum Show
Baldwin Bonanza
Herbal Victorian Fair
City of Arcadia-Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
Aril Show
Environmental Education Fair
Girl Scouts-Sierra Madre Council Flower Show
Fuchsia Lore Show
Temple City Camellia Show
Los Angeles Mycological Mushroom Show
Baikoen Kenkyukai Bonsai Show
Pacific Camellia Show
Los Angeles International Fern Show
Women Artists of the American West
Huck Finn Day
Pasadena Symphony Orchestra Dinner
Amaryllis Show
Children's Homes Society Luncheon
CAO Breakfast

MEETINGS AT THE ARBORETUM

Cactus and Succulent Society of America
Epiphyllum Society
Southland Orchid Show Committee, Inc.
Mame Society
Cymbidium Society of America
San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists
Pacific Rose Society
San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society
Rose Council Meeting
Akebono Bonsai Society
California Parks and Recreation Society
Arcadia Garden Club
Southern California Gardeners Council
Southern California Gladiolus Society
Environmental Education Fair Steering Committee
University of Southern California Extension Course
Bellflower Womens Garden Club
Arboretum District-California Garden Club
National Fuschia Society
Shohin Bonsai Society
Associated Koi Clubs of America
Geranium Society
Western Chapter of the Shade Tree Conference
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Board of Governors
Mechanical Department Employment Committee
American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta Meeting
Sunset Magazine Panel Meetings
California Rare Fruit Growers, Foothill Chapter
Aril Society
Begonia Society
Santa Anita Bonsai Society
Southern California Herb Society of America
Fuchsia Society, San Gabriel Valley Branch
Entomological Association
San Gabriel Valley Rose Society
Hemerocallis and Amaryllis Society
Greater Los Angeles Rose Council
Los Angeles Garden Show Steering Committee
Los Angeles County Natural History Docent Luncheon
Pasadena Garden Club
Southern California Camellia Society
Temple City Camellia Society
Los Angeles International Fern Society
Forest Management
American Orchid Society
Garden Club Judges School
American Horticultural Society
California Avocado Society
Pest Controllers State Exam
California Arboretum Foundation
University of California Cooperative Extension
Management Council Meeting
Department of Personnel
Los Angeles County Probation-Training Class
Arcadia Newcomers

KRTH Meeting
Public Health Services
County Health Centers Meeting
State Department of Rehabilitation Training Session
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Public Administrator Department - Executive Staff
Gaylor Cope, Jr. Seminar
Shakespeare Club of Pasadena
Department of Health Services-Nurses Recognition Week
Department of Personnel Volunteer Coalition
University of California, Los Angeles Extension Course
Los Angeles County Community Senior Citizens Center
Jackson Wills/Pennysaver
Las Angelitas Tour Group
Los Angeles County Public Library
Foster Home Licensing
Department of Public Social Services
Los Angeles Municipal Courts
Southern California Counties AFDC Task Force
Chief Administrative Office±Meeting
Los Angeles County Public Administration
Los Angeles County Computer Services
Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center
Pasadena Junior League Annual Meeting
Suburban Water Company Meeting
University of La Verne
California Urban Forest Council
State Department General Services
Pasadena Mental Health Family Outreach
Employee Relations Seminar
Temple City Sheriff Department Seminar
Rancho Los Amigos
Los Angeles County Marshal's Department
California Association Orientation & Mobility Spec.

DESCANSO GARDENS

The word "descanso" means rest. With its native California oak forest, nature trails and peaceful atmosphere, Descanso Gardens is aptly named. Beneath the oak forest is one of the world's largest displays of camellias with over 100,000 plants representing over 600 varieties of camellias. Nearby is the Teahouse, a refreshment pavilion designed in the Oriental tradition. The Gardens also contain a 4-acre All America Rose Selection garden and a History of Roses garden including some plants cultivated as far back as the first century.

Garden improvements and capital contruction was concentrated around the new Education/Exhibition complex. Landscaping around the complex was completed and the main entrance for Descanso Drive was also landscaped. The entrance planting included magnolias, redwood, azaleas, camellias and roses - designed as an introduction to the garden's plant collection.

Other improvements include the conversion of the garden's watering system to an automatic system for the lawns as well as for half of the camellia plantings.

Considerable improvement was also done on the garden's own water collection system in Hall Beckly Canyon replacing badly deteriorated pipes.

With the aid of the Descanso Gardens Guild, the student summer intern program was continued each year.

The garden's oaks and other large trees were pruned by private arborist by two service contracts.

The new building continues to be a popular meeting place for all groups for top level seminars and lecture-type meetings. Since the dedication of the Education/Exhibition Complex in September 1982, a new phase has taken place at Descanso Gardens. Educational and horticultural meetings and lectures have been held in the two classrooms in addition to various County department meetings. Van de Kamp Hall has provided a much needed facility for flower show exhibitions, community and Guild activities. Four major Guild-sponsored events are held annually.

FLOWER SHOWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS AT DESCANSO

Camellia Council Show
Daffodil Show
Descanso Spring Flower Show
Descanso Bonsai Society Show
Ikebana Show
Geranium Show
Southern California Hemerocallis and Amaryllis Show
Rose Show
Rose Pruning Demonstration
Annual Plant Sale
Chrysanthemum Show
Sangetsu Flower Arrangers
Los Angeles Beautiful
La Canada Beautiful
The Tournament of Roses
Day at Descanso Tours
Paseo Por Descanso
Annual Art Faire
Antique Car Show
Annual Christmas Show
La Canada Chamber of Commerce Barbecue
Summer Performing Arts Programs
La Canada Rotary Club
Girl Scouts' Art Festival
Museum of Childhood Exhibit
New Members Tea
Audubon Society Bird Walks
Sisters of Haven House Fund Raiser
Junior Charity League
The Kiwanis Club
County of Los Angeles Service Pin Awards Luncheon

MEETINGS AT DESCANSO

Pacific Camellia Society
Descanso Bonsai Society
The Daffodil Society
Chrysanthemum Society
Docent Classes
Board of Governors
Guild Project Board Meeting
Guild Board of Trustees Meetings
Ecological Gardeners
La Canada Valley Garden Club
Sangetsu Flower Arrangers
Flower Arrangers Guild
Crescenta Valley Sierra Club
Foothill Youth Services

County Departments of:
Probation
Chief Administrative Office
Beaches and Harbors
Board of Supervisors
Children Services
County Clerk
Community and Senior Citizens Services
Data Processing
Department of Public Social Service
Health Services
Juvenile Courts
Sheriff
Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center
Municipal Courts
Chief Administrative Office Human Resources
Public Library
Parks and Recreation Nature Center
Forester and Fire Warden
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

Development of South Coast Botanic Garden was started in 1960 on a site that was utilized as a sanitary landfill. Unique from the start, South Coast was developed over three and a half million tons of refuse and destined to become a classic example of land recycling.

Land settling, heat and methane gas caused by decomposition have led to damaged water lines and roads.

Garden improvements include the addition of two interpretative centers funded by the Foundation. One of the centers is located on the north end of the garden providing a panoramic view of the stream below.

The public parking lot was renovated with most of the heavy construction done by the Sanitation District. Over two thousand cubic yards of fill soil was needed to return the parking lot to its original grade. Central driveways were sanded and oiled in place of asphalt.

Five acres of new lawn were planted and the front half of the garden is now attractively landscaped.

A private landscape maintenance contractor is responsible for all trash removal, maintenance of the lawn and stream, and weed control.

The major challenge for the staff at South Coast is to keep the irrigation lines repaired.

With the help of the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation, the student intern program was continued each summer.

Horticultural classes, flower shows and other events have kept the Hall and classrooms in constant use.

FLOWER SHOWS & OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS AT SOUTH COAST

Cactus and Succulent Show
Camellia Show
Rose Show
Bonsai Show
Fiesta de Flores Plant Sale
Dahlia Show
Bromeliad Show
Orchid Show
Holiday in the Garden Show
Fuchsia Show
Herb Fair
Creative Flower Arranging
Fruit Tree Pruning
Palos Verdes Symphonic Band Concert
Tree Planting Ceremony
Riviera Garden Club
Holiday Luncheon - Fashion Show
Japanese Cultural Show
Labor Day Picnic
Costa Verde Flower Show
Butterflies of the Peninsula Show
Women's Council-Methodist Church
El Camino College Band Show
Artist of the Month
Volunteer Services- Memorial Hospital
Arbor Day Tree Planting
Plants of Peru and Bolivia
Cactus Garden Tour
Sunday Afternoon at the Gardens
Valentine Olympic Festival

MEETINGS AT SOUTH COAST

National Charity League
St. John Fisher Women's Council
California Native Plant Society
National Fuchsia Society
California Association of Nurserymen
Palos Verdes Women's Club
The Diggers Garden Club
Craft Workshop
South Coast American Begonia Society
South Bay Herb Society
Bromeliad Society
Bonsai Association
Dahlia Society
Rose Society
Palos Verdes Peninsula Council Meeting
Riviera Garden Club
South Bay Orchid Society
Designer's Study Group
Costa Verde Garden Club
Camellia Society
Silver Spur Garden Club
Cancer Society
Ikebana International, Los Angeles Chapter
Rolling Hills Covenant Church
Cactus and Succulent Society
South Bay Coalition for Alternatives to Domestic Violence
Palos Verdes High School Cotillion
South Coast Foundation
The Assembly
Los Angeles County Department Health Services
Los Angeles County-Paramedic Training
Los Angeles County Fire Department Expo
Rolling Hills Estates Women's Club
Rolling Hills Estates
Torrance Memorial Hospital-Breast Exam Training Center
Los Angeles Municipal Court
Peninsula High School Cotillion
Rolling Hills Community Association
B.R. & D. International
Los Angeles County Public Library
Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation
South Coast Docent Training
Palos Verdes Chamber of Commerce
Audubon Society
California Native Plant Society
Children's Hospital (Peninsula Community)
Judges Council of Southern California
California Trim Plan
Welcome Wagon of Palos Verdes
2001 Travel and Tours
Boy Scouts of America - South Bay District

VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS

Located in the heart of Beverly Hills, the Virginia Robinson Gardens is a six-acre garden on the estate of Mrs. Virginia Robinson. The garden is known for its palm collection, one of the few known palm groves to have naturalized in Southern California. With its ideal climatic condition, subtropical and tropical plants are grown throughout the garden.

The Robinson Gardens are now open for public tours on a reservation basis, Tuesday through Friday. Guided tours are offered at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Parking is limited for these tours. A full time volunteer coordinator to organize and train docents was funded by the County.

The guest house was repainted and renovated and frost-sensitive gingers and palms were added to the plant collection.

Staff members perform a variety of services to visitors at all departmental gardens. They design and produce brochures, maps and displays, as well as newspaper releases and radio announcements. Tram tour guides dispense information and answer many questions from the public, and the cashiers are responsible for selling tram and admission tickets as well as giving directions and assistance to visitors. Other employees performing special services include those maintaining the historical buildings and archival records, and operating the plant science library.

Specific services and activities performed from 1984 through 1985 are described below:

EDUCATION

Classes

The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum and the California Arboretum Foundation offer a variety of learning experiences in Adult Education. Most of the courses are planned to meet the horticultural interests and needs of the homeowner through lectures and workshops. Some classes are designed for those working in the field of horticulture and landscaping, while others are oriented toward an understanding of the garden and the natural environment as a resource for creative botanical arts and garden crafts. Adult Education courses were reinstated in September 1984 after being discontinued due to budget cuts since 1979. They are now funded by the California Arboretum Foundation. Course titles and enrollment for 1984-85 are as follows:

	CLASS	HRS/WK	SESSIONS	STUDENTS	ATTENDANCE
FALL					
	Edible, Med.,Pois. Plant ID (9/10-12/17)	3	12	12	144
	Bonsai (9/10-12/3)	3	10	9	90
	Ikebana (9/14-11/16)	2	8	22	170
	Perennials (9/10-10/29)	3	6	26	150
	Holiday Decorations (12/3-12/17)	3	3	20	60
WINTER					
	Flower Arranging (1/8-2/26)	2	6	20	180
	Plant ID (1/7-3/25)	3	10	33	330
	Garden Forum (1/11-3/1)	3	8	26	200
	Ikebana (1/11-3/1)	2	8	23	200
SPRING					
	Calif. Wldlfwr. ID (3/20-4/24)	3	6	29	170
	Ikebana (3/9-4/26)	2	8	28	214
	Flower Arranging (3/5-4/23)	2	6	27	162
	Garden Forum (3/8-4/26)	3	8	29	221
SUMMER					
	Trees/Shrubs for Lndscp. (6/17-7/22)	3	6	23	138
	Garden Pest ID (6/19-7/31)	3	6	20	120
	Ikebana (6/18-7/9)	2	6	25	150
	Floral Table Settings (6/14-7/26)	2	4	28	112

Spring Seminar Series -1985			
February 23	8	1	101
March 16	8	1	103
April 6	8	1	102

School Field Trips

Guided field trips are offered at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Descanso Gardens, and South Coast Botanic Garden. These field trips are available free of charge to students in grades 3 through 6 to study the relationship of plants and man or early California history. Subjects presented are developed in accord with State of California approved textbooks. Members of the staff are responsible for conducting training sessions for the volunteer field leaders.

Field Trip Attendance

	1982-83	1984-85
South Coast Botanic Garden	1879 students (61 classes)	1670 students (50 classes)
Descanso Gardens	4964 students (161 classes)	4855 students (143 classes)
L.A. State & County Arboretum	9322 students (296 classes)	6869 students (146 classes)
TOTAL	16,165 students (518 classes)	13,394 students (339 classes)

Arbor Day

Arbor Day is March 7 in California. Its observance is designed to promote the value of trees and natural resources and to support their conservation. Each year, the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens encourages the celebration of Arbor Day in the school system of Los Angeles County by growing and distributing free trees. The trees are intended for use in an Arbor Day ceremony held on the school campuses. To help teachers prepare lesson plans relating to environmental awareness and the importance of trees, a resource packet containing suitable classroom exercises and worksheets is distributed to participating schools.

1984, 759 trees were distributed. The Tree of the Year was an Arboretum plant introduction, Tabebuia chrysotricha, the golden trumpet tree.

1985, 699 trees were distributed. The Tree of the Year was an Arboretum plant introduction, Cassia excelsa, the crown of gold tree.

Plant Science Library

The availability of horticultural information through the Plant Science Library is an important public service offered by the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. The library now contains a total of 28,000 books, magazines, and other publications. The library is open to the public during regular business hours. Although the materials in the library cover mainly botanical and horticultural topics, there are also books on early California history, birds, and decorative arts. The Arboretum's librarian assisted 4409 staff members, interested home gardeners, students, and professionals in this biennium, as well as answering the questions of 1053 people who requested information by telephone.

Historical Section

There are four buildings of historical significance located at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum: the Queen Anne Cottage, the matching Coach Barn, the Hugo Reid Adobe, and the Santa Anita Depot. In addition to the maintenance and preservation of these buildings, employees, with the help of volunteers, catalog photographs, slides, antique clothing and furniture, newspaper articles, and other printed materials as part of the historical files.

Herbarium

The Arboretum maintains a collection of approximately 18,000 dried, pressed, and identified plant specimens in its herbarium. This collection is accessible to the public during regular business hours in the Research Building. The emphasis of the collection is on the ornamental plants of Southern California. Specimens in the herbarium are used extensively to aid in the identification of plants. The herbarium curator is working toward a complete collection representing each different plant on the grounds.

Publications

In response to public interest, a new booklet has been produced that chronicles movie and television filming locations at the Los Angeles State County Arboretum from 1936 to 1984. Photographs in the booklet are from the historical files of the Arboretum. The booklet has been offered for sale in the Gift Ship and has been well received.

An addition was made to the popular HortiCULTURE series of leaflets bringing the total number of gardening subjects covered up to fifteen. The new Dichondra leaflet gives home gardeners tips on the care and maintenance of a dichondra lawn. HortiCULTURE leaflets are available to the public on a donation basis.

RESEARCH

Plant Records

The plant records system for the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens is comprised of card files, computers, and a computer-generated printout which serve as a means of maintaining the history of each plant accession, its location in the nursery or on the grounds, and vital scientific information concerning each plant species. The information system helps to monitor the location of plants as well as their growth progress. Personnel assigned to plant records are responsible for the accumulation and recording of accurate information for input into the computer and card systems.

During this biennium, one of the projects assigned to plant records was an inventory of the orchid collection. The entire collection, 1,865 accessions of orchid species and hybrids, was inventoried, and new metal plant identification tags were made and placed with each plant.

Also completed during this period was a mapping project begun in the 1970's. Each 200 x 200 foot quadrate of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum was inventoried and each individual plant was recorded on a grid map to the nearest foot. Mapping is an ongoing project and now, with the updated map and a computer printout as a checklist, each quadrate is being reviewed and changes made due to the planting, thinning, and removal of plants that have occurred since the original survey.

The taxonomist and herbarium curator are responsible for monitoring horticultural and botanical literature in order to keep plant names current. Any reclassifications that occur can be entered into the computer to keep the inventory records accurate.

Plant Introduction Program

Over this biennium, 4,026 new accessions were brought into the gardens by the director, superintendent, and taxonomist. Most of these new accessions came in as seeds from other botanic gardens and commercial sources. In line with the current plant collection program, all new materials are processed in the nursery and planted on the grounds for evaluation as new or superior landscaping material.

Especially interesting or promising plant materials include:

Camellia reticulata and *Osmanthus fragrans* cultivars from China
Tecoma stans hybrid from San Juan Capistrano
Baphia chrysophylla, small fragrant white-flowered tree
Fabiana imbricata, dense upright shrubby Chilean heath
Maireana sedifolia, Pearly bluebush, silver and drought-resistant
Polyalthia longifolia, shiny-leaved, weeping ornamental tree
Cyperus papyrus subspecies *hadidii*, endangered wild form of papyrus
Anotea flavida, endangered cotton relative of Mexico

RELATED SERVICES

Graphics and Reproduction

Visitors to the Arboretum's Australian Section at the Arboretum can better understand the unusual flora and fauna of that continent through a new Interpretive Center. Panels of illustrated text form an attractive display and a shady rest stop in the center of the 19-acre section. There are now four Interpretive Centers located in different areas of the Arboretum.

A plate shear was purchased to accurately and quickly trim the Metalphoto aluminum labels used to identify plants at all department facilities.

Booklets, maps, and brochures have been reprinted to maintain a steady supply of information about the department to the public. Posters and signs are provided for special events as needed.

Plant Information

A popular means of dispensing information to the public is the Arboretum's Plant Information Service. For three hours Monday through Friday mornings, volunteers screen telephone requests for plant information from the public.

Questions that cannot be answered immediately by the volunteers are referred to the research staff at the Arboretum or other appropriate agencies. Training sessions are held for the volunteers where a staff members alerts them to common seasonal gardening problems and their solutions in anticipation of telephone requests. People calling for plant information are not charged for this service by the department. In the 1983-85 biennium, 7,400 requests for information were received.

Admissions and Tram Service

Business office personnel and cashiers are responsible for collecting, tallying, and depositing funds from the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Descanso Gardens, and South Coast Botanic Garden and the Virginia Robinson Garden. This money includes not only admission fees, but tour fees as well. Three of the gardens are open every day of the year (closing only on Christmas Day) and operate regular tram tours and specical group tours on a daily basis. The exception, Virginia Robinson Gardens, is open Tuesday through Friday and offers walking tours by reservation only.

Publicity

Newspaper releases and radio public service announcements are regularly sent out for publicity on flower shows and special events. Special services also include providing information and direction to media personnel on assignment at the gardens.

DEPARTMENT OF ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

FINANCIAL REPORT

1983 - 1985

1983-1984	APPROPRIATION	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
Salaries & Wages	$2,289,574	$2,281,015	$ 8,559
Services & Supplies	407,876	335,811	72,065
Capital Outlay Equipment	7,300	2,292	5,008
TOTAL DEPARTMENT	$2,704,750	$2,619,118	$86,632

1984-1985			
Salaries & Wages	$2,395,793	$2,395,792.32	$ .68
Services & Supplies	688,177	567,199.32	75,652.68
Capitl Outlay Equipment	5,000	3,851.04	1,148.96
TOTAL DEPARTMENT	$3,088,970	$2,966,842.68	$76,802.32

Adjusted Appropriation	1982-1984	1984-1985
Number of Budgeted Positions -	82.6	81.6

ADMISSION

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Gross Admission	768,679	732,708	732,639	638,431
Total Paid	487,296	441,653	453,655	425,309
Adult - Paid	320,403	263,192	281,485	261,717
Other - Paid	167,056	168,170	173,512	163,597
Total Collected	$ 375,714	$ 538,759	$ 555,372	$ 517,819
Tram Revenue	$ 89,081	$ 125,235	$ 107,046	$ 103,602
Group	$ 25,404	$ 8,216	$ 6,007	$ 2,628
*Deposited Revenue	$ 490,322	$ 672,699	$ 668,489	$ 623,844

*Final totals include overages or shortages.

CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

BIENNIAL REPORT 1983 - 1985

The California Arboretum Foundation, Inc. is the non-profit support organization for the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Membership in the Foundation totals 3,500 and from this membership volunteers have donated more than 64,000 hours of work toward the Arboretum and its programs.

The Foundation supplied $73,762 in 83/84 and $54,554 in 84/85 for maintenance of the garden with $39,132 in 83/84 and $19,308 in 84/85 for programs and equipment which included a diffusion processor, paper cutter, permanent audio system for Ayres Hall of Environmental Education, microfische reader and a computer to inventory the extensive plant collection at the Arboretum.

A $200,000 matching grant was received from Los Angeles County for Capital improvements. Completed to date are cement walks to the greenhouses, new entrance way signs, road repair and slurry, renovation of Lecture Hall, construction of an observation platform at the Koi Pool and electrical improvements. Proposed projects include a Visitor Orientation Center, education office, expansion of parking lot, additional electrical improvements.

The Foundation also continued to fund the Horticultural student intern program at the cost of $56,132 in 83/84 and $59,600 in 84/85. A Speakers Bureau was started in addition to an extensive Public Education program. The Arbor Day program reached 700 schools in each year of 1984 and 1985. A wedding program was started at the Arboretum which has proved very successful.

A grant of $10,000 was received from Sunset Magazine for additional developent of the Demonstration Home Garden. The following grants were received for Foundation programs: Security Pacific Bank, Southern California Gas Co., Chevron Inc.

Major events at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum sponsored by the Foundation this biennium included a summer picnic concert, Los Angeles Garden Show, Queen Anne Frolic, Baldwin Bonanza plant sale and Huck Finn Day.

DESCANSO GARDENS GUILD

BIENNIAL REPORT 1983 - 1985

Descanso Gardens Guild is a non-profit support organization serving the needs of Descanso Gardens. Guild members raise funds for capital projects as well as for supplies to maintain the gardens.

Major public events include Paseo Por Descanso, a benefit luncheon introducing guests to Descanso Gardens with docent-led guided tours. Flower shows cosponsored by the Guild include Daffodil Show, Chrysanthemum Show and Camellia Show.

With the aid of volunteers the, guild also sponsored a spring flower show and plant sale as well as the annual Christmas show.

There are now 2,068 members in the Guild, and during the past two fiscal years, a total of 67,853 volunteer hours have been contributed to develop and improve Descanso Gardens.

The Guild's major capital project for this period was a Guild Task Force reorganization which included a study of our educational programs, upgrading of our administrative and by-law policies and a complete study of a Master Plan for the future of Descanso Gardens.

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION

BIENNIAL REPORT 1983 - 1985

The South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation is the non-profit organization for the South Coast Botanic Garden, located in Palos Verdes. Membership in the Foundation now totals 1,700. The volunteers have donated 61,233 hours. These volunteers have staffed the Gift Shop, admission window, cared for the Vegetable and Flower Garden.

The Foundation provided $11,196 for supplies, equipment and other materials for direct County personnel use. The Intern Program was kept operational at a cost of $28,326. Approximately $65,000 was spent on new structures such as a Greenhouse (19' x 37') fully equipped, two gazebos, 11 benches, an illuminated street sign (19' x 23') including a message center (5' x 12') installed on Crenshaw Blvd., added air conditioning to the Gift Shop, extended many electrical lines for future use, built a second Interpretive Center and refurbished two small greenhouses. Another $28,000 was spent on in-house repairs such as re-painting the patio trim, the Shade Garden and all adjacent doors and benches. Plants and fertilizer were also purchased for the Patio, Vegetable and Flower Garden.

Our horticultural activities continue to flourish. Sunday Afternoon at the Garden is still a favorite. Educational classes have increased to 15 selections. Youth education courses were offered in gardening and ceramics. Propagation workshop for adults offers additional lectures and "hands-on" experience. There are more than 12 societies that meet regularly at the Garden each of whom has a yearly flower show which is cosponsored by the Foundation.

Weddings and receptions as well as the Fiesta De Flores continue to be great sources of revenue as well as Membership. TRW, ARCO, the Norris Foundation, and the Rich Family contribute heavily toward our revenue as did many generous individuals.

FRIENDS OF ROBINSON GARDENS

BIENNIAL REPORT 1983 - 1985

The Friends of Robinson Gardens is the volunteer support group responsible for the restoration, preservation and tour program of the historically and botanically important Virginia Robinson estate.

Restoration of the buildings and grounds is underway. Morgan Evans, noted landscape architect, is preparing a master plan for the restoration of the grounds and the irrigation system. To date, the Friends have committed $58,000 to hiring additional gardeners, a major tree trimming program and the landscaped master plan.

Major steps have been made in the restoration of the residence, guest pavilion, and servants quarters. A master plan for restoration has been prepared under the direction of the noted restoration architect, Raymond Girvigian, FAIA. The masterplan includes a set of as-built architectural drawings, an as-found photo recordation, an electrical survey, a structural survey and a proposal for the restoration of the hand stenciled ceiling in the guest pavilion. In addition, the main residence has been re-roofed, roofing repairs have been made at the guest pavilion, a new security lighting system has been installed and the decorative painting of the exterior of the guest pavilion has been completed.

The Friends, comprised of 165 volunteers have donated 20,586.5 volunteer hours and raised $263,292. Funds have been derived from three benefits, dues, educational lectures as well as from several major donors including Robinson's Department Stores and CBS.

Members of the Friends are currently researching and cataloging the many letters, photographs and other memorabilia left by Mrs. Robinson. Study of the social history of Beverly Hills and of the period is also in progress.

Articles about the gardens and the buildings on this National Register site have appeared in Los Angeles Magazine, Sunset, Pacific Horticulture, Previews, Los Angeles Times, and various local newspapers.

ROBINSON GARDENS FOUNDATION

BIENNIAL REPORT 1983 - 1985

The Robinson Gardens Foundation is another non-profit group supporting the gardens. Though membership is small, this group has contributed to several ongoing garden projects during this period, and plans are underway to sponsor a new rose garden to replace the existing garden.

Missouri Botanical Garden Library
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SUPPORT ORGANIZATION PRESIDENTS

California Arboretum Foundation

7/1/83-6/30/84 Mr. John Shepherd
7/1/84-6/30/85 Mr. R. Kirk Evans

Descanso Gardens Guild

7/1/83-1/31/84 Mrs. Ann (Walter H.) Weiler
2/1/84-6/30/85 Mrs. Gloria (John) Winkley

South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation

7/1/83-6/30/84 Mr. Jack Duston
7/1/84-6/30/85 Mrs. Jane (Roland) Au

Friends of Robinson Gardens

7/1/83-6/30/84 Mrs. Phoebe (Joseph) Vaccaro
7/1/84-6/30/85 Mrs. Sophie (Anthony) Mastor

Robinson Gardens Foundation

7/1/83-6/30/84 Mrs. Lucy (Homer) Toberman
7/1/84-6/30/85 Mrs. Jane (John) Mock